

To Our Representatives:

#### Assault weapons ban

- I ask all of you to consider this. Would banning spoilers, fancy rims and hood scoops on cars stop anyone from speeding? Because what you are proposing is essentially banning the spoiler, hood scoop and rims off of a particular set of guns in order to stop gun violence. Do you think this reflects any common sense legislation that will actually do what you say it will?
- Once you have given yourself the power to ban one semi-automatic weapon that functions the exact same way as any other semi-automatic. Are you to say that you don't then have the power to ban all semi-automatic weapons including handguns, shotguns and other hunting rifles next?

#### High Capacity Magazines

- Forget about rifles for a moment because most handguns that people use for self-protection have standard capacity magazines of more than 10 rounds. You will essentially make the majority of handgun owners in this state an instant criminal or render their expensive legally purchased firearms useless.
- If police need more than 10 rounds and most of the time there is more than one policeman involved in a shootout with a criminal why do we only get ten rounds to save our own lives? Need I remind you that the police are not fighting in a war, they are fighting the very criminals that are attacking us, the private citizen that you are trying to disarm.
- So called high capacity magazines are widely available even with a ban. In fact 3-d printers can print them up in no time in someone's basement or they can be purchased in another state. Do you think banning them from law abiding citizens will stop criminals from obtaining them?
- We have laws on the book for murder that come with the stiffest penalties of any crime you can commit I would assume. I ask you this, will a criminal with the intent to murder think twice about violating a law on how many bullets he can have in a magazine. Will he worry about the extra year that might get tacked onto his sentence for the illegal magazine? Of course not. Is someone that is afraid to go to jail for having an illegal magazine someone we have to worry about committing a more serious crime with that magazine?

#### Background check

- While I do not believe background checks will have an effect as most people do not sell guns to strangers and the vast majority of transactions are between family and friends. Black markets and criminals will sell weapons to those that cannot obtain guns legally. But the majority of us are very worried about any kind of registration and record keeping. We know there are people including some in this legislature that would love an opportunity to take guns out of the hands of everyone. Even if we had a mandated background check a registration would eventually lead to unlawful seizure of firearms.

## Taxes

- We know this state has a major budget problem and you are looking for any way to continue these spending levels with taxes as every tax in this state has been raised since Malloy took office. So much of what you are proposing is simply a way for your to raise more revenue from the already cash strapped residents of this state. There is no tax that will stop a criminal and we all know that. You are clearly using such a tragic incident to punish law abiding citizens for your overspending and we will make sure this is known to all your constituents.

## Conclusion

Does anything I have stated here sounds unreasonable and not plain common sense thinking? When emotions are high and people have suspended rational thought for quick feel good action does that help actually solve anything? I understand many of you feel pressure to do something. But wouldn't doing the right thing serve your constituents better than doing the easy thing? I have clearly stated here today why this legislation will have no effect on criminals and only affect your law abiding citizens. I believe that you can convince most of your rational logical constituents of these facts. And we certainly shouldn't legislate giving into the irrational people because that's not how society functions. Please realize that you have the facts on your side to guide you through this tough time. I can also assure you that you will have wide support and bi-partisan support of legislation that targets the true criminals. Getting rid of the early release program, especially for those who have used a firearm or have committed violent crimes. Strengthening laws on straw purchaser and increasing jail time for crimes committed with a gun. Focus on the criminal element and not only will you have support but you will actually make a difference.

Thank you for listening to my testimony.